

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 05938 231320Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 SIG-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 IO-13 COME-00 HA-05 EUR-12 OES-09 DOE-15
SOE-02 /155 W

-----033637 231321Z /41

R 230818Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9194
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5938

STATE: ALSO FOR USAID

MANILA: FOR USADB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, AF, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN'S VIEWS ABOUT AMERICAN AID
FOR AFGHANISTAN

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER
HAFIZULLAH AMIN ON JULY 20, HE STRESSED TO ME THE HIGH
VALUE HIS GOVERNMENT PLACES ON CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSIS-
TANCE FROM THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR, AMIN CITED THE
AFGHANS' HOPE THAT WE WILL EXPAND OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS
IN THE HELMAND VALLEY, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "YOUR BABY."

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER POINT, AMIN TOLD ME
THAT HE HAD ONLY THAT MORNING BETWEEN DISCUSSING WITH
MOHAMMAD MANSOOR HASHIMI, MINISTER OF WATER AND POWER,
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THE LATTER'S INTEREST IN EXTENDING KAJAKAI POWER TO
HERAT (AS A PART OF A LARGER SCHEME TO CREATE A COUNTRY-
WIDE POWER NETWORK). AMIN HAD PROMISED HASHIMI
TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE AMERICANS, WHOM
HE REGARDED AS THE LOGICAL DONORS. I TOLD AMIN
THAT OUR USAID OFFICIALS WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER
FURTHER WITH HASHIMI.

3. COMMENT: THE DAOUD REGIME HAD ALSO ASKED US TO HELP WITH A KAJAKAI-TO-HERAT POWER PROJECT, BUT WE HAD EXPLAINED AT THAT TIME HOW IT COULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN USAID GUIDELINES. IN EXPLAINING THESE RESTRICTIONS AGAIN TO THE NEW REGIME, WE WILL ADVISE THAT THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT ASPECTS OF SUCH A POWER SYSTEM COULD, OF COURSE, BE A PROJECT TO BE DISCUSSED WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, LIKE THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. IF SUCH A PROJECT WERE TO BE LAUNCHED, AMERICAN FIRMS WITH REGIONAL EXPERIENCE COULD QUALIFY FOR VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, SUCH AS THOSE COMPANIES WHICH COMPLETED A KAJAKAI-TO-KANDAHAR POWER LINK NOT LONG AGO.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EAID, AF, US
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